

## Message Text

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53

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 IO-13

OMB-01 /084 W

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O R 031603Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2448

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

:AMEMBASSY ATHENS 7561

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, LE, US, FR

SUBJECT: REPORTED US-FRENCH DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGE ON LEBANON

1. SUMMARY. BEIRUT PRESS REPORTS DETAILS OF ALLEGED EXCHANGE OF DIPLOMATIC NOTES BETWEEN US AND FRANCE ON LEBANON. END SUMMARY.

2. INDEPENDENT BEIRUT DAILY AN NAHAR DECEMBER 3 CARRIED BANNER HEADLINE AND FRONT PAGE STORY REPORTING FROM "DIPLO-MATIC SOURCES IN BEIRUT" ACCOUNT OF EXCHANGE OF DIPLOMATIC NOTES BETWEEN FRANCH AND AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS ON SUBJECT OF LEBANON. PAPER SAYS LATEST FRANCH NOTE CONTAINED "VERY BITTER CRITICISM OF THOSE PRINCES WHO RULE LEBANON AND WANT TO PUT IT AGAIN UNDER THEIR CONTROL." PAPER SAYS USG RESPONDED

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APPROVINGLY TO LATEST FRANCH NOTE AND THAT LATEST US NOTE

CONTAINED, INTER ALIA, FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. US SHARES FRENCH VIEW THAT DOMINATION OF THESE "PRINCES WHO GOVERN LEBANON" SHOULD BE ENDED BY PRESIDENT SARKIS.

B. US UNDERSTANDS THAT RIYADH/CAIRO SUMMITS ENCOURAGED PRESIDENT SARKIS TO EXERCISE STRONG PRESIDENTIAL RULE.

C. PALESTINIAN INTERESTS ARE BEST SERVED THROUGH DIALOGUE AND NEGOTIATION RATHER THAN VIOLENCE.

D. ARAB SECURITY FORCE IS "THE LEBANESE ARMY OF SARKIS," AND LEBANON MAY HAVE NO ARMY BEFORE A NEW NATIONAL POLITICAL FORMULA IS ACHIEVED.

E. ANY COMPLICATED CONFESSIONAL PROBLEMS IN LEBANON SHOULD BE REFERRED TO QUADRIPARTITE COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED BY CAIRO SUMMIT; USG HAS NO ROLE TO PLAY IN INTERNAL LEBANESE POLITICS.

F. ISRAEL WILL NOT OCCUPY SOUTH LEBANON AND LEBANESE WATERS BELONG TO LEBANON.

G. US IS PREPARED TO JOIN FRANCE AND OTHER PARTIES IN CONTRIBUTING TO DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN LEBANON.

3. COMMENT. NO OTHER BEIRUT PAPERS CARRIED STORY, WHICH SUGGESTS SOURCE TALKED DIRECTLY TO AN NAHAR. HOWEVER, STORY HAS BEEN MAJOR TOPIC OF CONVERSATION IN BEIRUT TODAY AND HAS BEEN REPEATED ON LOCAL RADIO.

4. THIS EMBASSY IS UNAWARE OF ANY SUCH EXCHANGE OF NOTES AND FRANCH CHARGE CALLED DEC 3 TO DENY ANY KNOWLEDGE. WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE FROM DEPARTMENT ON WHAT WE CAN SAY IN RESPONSE TO PRESS QUERIES AND ANY INFO ON THIS SUBJECT CHARGE CAN PASS TO PRESIDENT SARKIS, IF HE ASKS.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, DIPLOMATIC NOTES  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 DEC 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** BoyleJA  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** REPORTED US-FRENCH DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGE ON LEBANON  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SOPN, PDIP, LE, US, FR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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